

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9550

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, HK, UR

SUBJECT: HONG KONG'S COMMUNIST PRESS ON U.S. POLICIES TOWARD RUSSIA
AND CHINA

1. IN ADDITION TO FEATURING REPORTS ON CHINA'S OWN DOMESTIC "DEBATE", THE PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO (MARCH 13) IN HONG KONG HAS TAKEN NOTE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BOSTON SPEECH REPLYING TO CRITICS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN A COMMENTARY ENTITLED, "THE DEBATE OVER AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY." THE COMMENTARY DRAWS FROM VARIOUS REPORTS AND STATISTICS TO SUGGEST THAT THE SOVIETS ARE INDEED BECOMING THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE MILITARY POWER AND CONCLUDES THAT CRITICISM OF THE U.S. POSTURE AND POLICIES TOWARD SOVIETS IS NOT NECESSARILY UNFOUNDED. NCNA HAS REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH.

2. IN THE PAST WEEK, WEN WEI PAO HAS ALSO PROMINENTLY FEATURED THREE LENGTHY EXCERPTS FROM A THOMAS HUGHES ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 28 ISSUE OF THE NEW REPUBLIC
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ENTITLED, "WHO LOST OUR CHINA POLICY?" SUBHEADINGS

IDENTIFY HUGHES AS A FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (SIC) AND CITE HIS ARGUMENTS THAT: (A) THE ABSENCE OF APPARENT PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS UNDER FORD AND KISSINGER HAS BEEN SURPRISING, AND (B) THAT THE U.S. MUST CHANGE ITS POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN IF IT IS TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH CHINA. THE EXCERPTS OF THE ARTICLE ALSO CONTAIN THE HUGHES' VIEW THAT THE U.S. IS LACKING IN IMAGINATION AND EFFORT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE FINAL NORMALIZATION PROCESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, LOCAL COMMUNIST PAPERS HAVE CARRIED U.S. WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THE PROJECTED DECREASE IN U.S. MILITARY SALES TO TAIWAN AND BRIEF NEWS ITEMS NOTING THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, THE U.S. IS CONTINUING THE DRAWING DOWN OF MILITARY FORCES ON TAIWAN.

3. COMMENT: THE COMMENTARY ON THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY "DEBATE" IS YET ANOTHER INDICATION OF PEKING'S CONCERN WITH THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF ITS PRIMARY COUNTERWEIGHT TO THE SOVIETS. THE EXCERPTED ARTICLE NUDGING THE U.S. TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NORMALIZATION OF U.S.-CHINA TIES AT A TIME WHEN THE "DEBATE" INSIDE CHINA SEEMS TO BE INTENSIFYING MAY BE PART OF THE PRC EFFORT ALSO TO CONVEY A SENSE OF BUSINESS AS USUAL IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, FROM TIME TO TIME, PEKING HAS USED ITS HONG KONG MEDIA APPENDAGES TO CARRY ARTICLES AND NEWS ITEMS REFLECTING PEKING'S VIEWS ON MATTERS IT PREFERENCES NOT TO RAISE IN ITS MORE AUTHORITATIVE AND OFFICIAL DOMESTIC NEWS ORGANS.

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